



## Zechariah 5

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Zechariah 5.

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### Topics.

- A flying scroll with a curse goes out over the face of the whole land.
  - A basket with a woman sitting in it is seen going out over Israel.
  - Two women with wings of a stork take the basket to the land of Shinar.
  - Babylon and the world system of money.
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**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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The following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, (to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter one). As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel. The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

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**The historical background:** twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

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**NOTE:** there are still people arriving up from the land of Babylon (Zechariah 6:9-10).

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### ZECHARIAH 5:1-4

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**A Flying Scroll with a Curse Goes out Over the Face of the Land.**

- **Zechariah 5:1-4:** Again I (Zechariah) lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll!  
<sup>2</sup>And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits."  
<sup>3</sup>Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side."  
<sup>4</sup>I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."

God is about to cleanse the land of Israel from everything wicked the scroll has judgment for the thief on one side and judgment for deceivers, liars, and false prophets on the other side.

**The flying scroll:** is a symbol of God's judgment coming to those who steal, those who deceive and those who lie and the false prophets who dwell in the land of Israel. The flying scroll is teaching that the land of Israel will be cleansed of thieves, liars, deceivers and false prophets the scroll is showing that the land of Israel will be purified from wickedness when the Temple is built, and God's law is taught.

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## ZECHARIAH 5:5-8

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### **A Basket with a Woman Sitting in it is seen going out Over Israel.**

- **Zechariah 5:5-8:** Then the angel who talked with me (Zechariah) came forward and said to me, "Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out."  
<sup>6</sup>And I said, "What is it?" He said, "This is the basket that is going out." And he said, "This is their iniquity in all the land."  
<sup>7</sup>And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket!  
<sup>8</sup>And he said, "This is Wickedness." And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening.

Zechariah sees a basket full of all Israel's iniquity with a closed lid on it being taken out of the land of Israel, but as the basket is being taken out the lid is lifted and a woman symbolising wickedness is seen sitting in the basket, she is pushed back in and the lid is sealed, symbolising wickedness being restrained.

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## ZECHARIAH 5:9-11

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### **Two Women with Wings of a Stork take the Basket to Shinar.**

- **Zechariah 5:9-11:** Then I (Zechariah) lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.  
<sup>10</sup>Then I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they taking the basket?"  
<sup>11</sup>He said to me, "To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base."

**Shinar:** is the Hebrew name for Babylon (modern Iraq) where Babel was located, it lay on an alluvial plain and for many centuries was perhaps the most fertile region on the earth. Nebuchadnezzar was ruler of the land of Shinar and it is mentioned in prophecy (Isaiah 11:1) (Zech. 5:11).

**Zechariah sees two women:** with wings approaching him that lift the basket and begin to take it to the land of Shinar where a house will be built for it, from the previous verses we know the basket is full of stealing, lies, deception, and wickedness. Eventually when the house in the land of Shinar is built the basket full of wickedness will be set up in it.

**The moral of the basket:** the basket of wickedness being carried out of the land of Israel is teaching, when people get their lives right with God, wickedness is removed from the land. The following verses show that Babylon became a symbol of the world system of mammon, false religion and pagan gods.

- I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup>And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. <sup>3</sup>For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living." (Rev. 18:1-3).

Without belief in the God of the Bible there only remain false concepts of god created by man's own imagination or money and all the possessions and luxuries it can purchase to replace the space God has created in the human heart for His love Spirit and His grace. This means that there are four choices in life:

1. The God of the Bible.
2. Other concepts of God created by our own imagination of Him.
3. No God at all.
4. Money (the entire world system is based and controlled by it).

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## **BABYLON AND THE WORLD SYSTEM OF MONEY**

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The Babylonians were money-lenders not only out of dedicated policy, but with fervour, zest, and relish. The following proverb of the Babylonians expresses this outlook very clearly.

- The giving of a loan is like making love; the returning of a loan is like having a son born.

They were a breed of happy, proud, heartless and ruthless moneylenders. Their whole world of business moved in terms of credit and financing, and their whole concept of social control and of imperialism rested on usury. It is not surprising that "Babylon the great," is the type in Revelation of the One-World Order which is seducing all nations. For biblical economy, loans are not the basis of normal operation as with Babylon, but of abnormal circumstances. As such, and definitely as such, they have their place, but they operate in terms of absolute understanding as well as clear, definite and obvious restrictions. Following are the two kinds of loans in the Bible that were recognized:

1. To the believer without usury, but with security.
2. To the unbeliever, with usury and security.

In both instances the security is something real, it is a tangible asset, in goods or in money that is transferred and involves only the two parties involved to the contract. Modern banking however, is radically different. Banks "create" money by an official authorization and by one party simply recording a loan and a deposit on their books. The consequence of defaulting on this type of loan is not like the personal and limited action of a biblical loan, but inflation it results in the decreasing of the prior relationship of the money value to the value of the total goods and services and results in a decreasing of all money value. Loans such as this means an element of robbery has occurred because such a system reduces the value of all other money previously in existence. Modern central banking (i.e. the Federal Reserve System) is modern applications of the old Babylonian principles and is equally seductive in helping to bring about the lure of the 'Dream of Empire.'

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## **THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

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Prior to the introduction of central banking, the ability to create money by an official authorization was relatively limited, and it depended in large measure on the confidence of the individuals in the local bank. Today, the

instrument of control has passed to the Federal Reserve System, its directors and stockholders, the Treasury Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and other agencies who are engaged in manipulating the money supply. Biblical law is hostile to a money system that is based on credit, because it creates an abnormal and oppressive lifestyle of debt for a country or individual who lives by it. The Babylonian system of economics today is anti-biblical and as such will incur the wrath of God whose advance judgment Scripture proclaims:

- The merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of Babylon's luxurious living (Revelation 18:3).
- Babylon the great is fallen is fallen (Rev. 18:2).

The merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her Babylon since no one buys her gold, silver, jewels, pearls and fine linen anymore (Rev. 18:11-12).

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## VISIONS

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A vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision communicates the God's will or future events and is always under God's control. It can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of whoever God chooses to give the vision to. Those who have had such a vision tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words that God has spoken to them in the vision. For further information see the title:

- Visions and Prophecy.
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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